(b) It provided that teachers who have worked in a difficult station for 3 years may, as far as possible, be transferred to stations of their choice or to schools near those stations, if a request for transfer is made by them.

(c) A Committee was set up to identify difficult stations and recommend incentives that could be given to the employees at these stations so as to attract them. One of the terms of reference of this Committee was "To suggest consequential amendments to the exising transfer policy".

(d) The recommendations of this Committee were as given below:

(i) Residential accommodation should invariably be provided to the teachers.

(ii) Medical facilities should be made available to the teachers and their families.

(iii) Ministry of Defence may be requested to extend canteen facilities to teachers.

(iv) All facilities for the education of the children be afforded.

(v) Shorter period of tenure for teachers at such stations should be prescribed.

(vi) Vehicles may be provided to teachers for going to the nearest marking centre bi-weekly.

(vii) Some special pay may be provided.

(viii) An advance increment of pay may be given.

(ix) TA/DA may be paid to the newly appointed teachers posted to the stations.

(x) TA/DA and disturbance allowance may be paid for all transfers from such stations.

(xi) Public Sector Undetarkiug schools should be set up only if all the required facilities are made available.

(xii) In project areas, project allowance as admissible to the employees of that particular project should be paid to the teachers.

(e) The provisions relating to posting in difficult stations was discontinued consequent on the decision of the Board of Governors of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan to abolish tenure as a basis for transfer. This has been done to promote a sense of identification amongst teachers with the Vidyalayas where they are working.

(f) No, Sir.

Brahmaputra river as a national waterway

2784. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a final decision in respect of declaring the Brahmaputra as a national waterway; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Brahhaputra is one of the 10 waterways identified for being declared as a National Waterway. Action regarding declaration of Brahmaputra as a National Waterway and enactment of necessary legislation in this regard has been initiated.

New Post Offices in Orissa

2785. SHRI BASUDEV MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to open new Post Offices in Orissa during current financial year; and

(b) if so, what are the names of towns and villages, where the post offices are likely to be opened?